



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 12, 2016

**DATE:** March 14, 2016  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Ellen G.I. Clark, M.D., Medical Examiner's Office  
(775) 785-6114, eclark@washoecounty.us  
**THROUGH:** Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve additional expenditures in the amount of \$40,000 to the existing Purchase Order for National Medical Service (NMS) for toxicology testing (\$140,000 total Purchase Order) through June 30, 2016. (All Commission Districts)

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### SUMMARY

The Medical Examiner and Coroner's Office requests that the Board approve additional expenditures in the amount of \$40,000 to the existing Purchase Order for National Medical Service (NMS) for toxicology testing through June 30, 2016.

### **Washoe County Strategic Objectives supported by this item:**

- Safe, secure and healthy communities
- Stewardship of our community

### PREVIOUS ACTION

June 2012 - Board action to approve expenditures for toxicology testing in the amount of \$16,000

June 2013 – Board action to approve expenditures for toxicology testing in the amount of \$25,500

March 2014 – Board action to approve expenditures for toxicology testing in the amount of \$50,000

AGENDA ITEM # 5.C.

## **BACKGROUND**

Since May, 2010 the Washoe County Medical Examiner & Coroner's Office has joined on the forensic toxicology testing agreement with the National Medical Service (NMS) resulting from Clark County Bid No. 603594-15 (OA No. 4610004870) with 4 annual renewals remaining.

National Medical Service (NMS) was the chosen provider for Clark County as well as Washoe County as they are a nationally accredited laboratory with an excellent reputation for work product and case turnaround time.

NMS provides all of the forensic toxicology testing for the Washoe County Medical Examiner's Office. It should be noted that this office also sends its "Outside Agency" samples to NMS, and that by the end of this fiscal year, the office will have received approximately \$56,000 payment in kind reimbursements from these agencies.

- ✓ **Caseload:**
  - During calendar year 2012 (the first year of contracting with NMS), the Medical Examiner/Coroner (MECO) received 3,066 reported deaths. Of those, 789 had autopsies or medical examinations performed.
  - During calendar year 2015, the MECO received 3818 reported deaths. Of those 913 had autopsies or medical examinations.
  - For the same period last year (1/1/2015 – 2/28/2015 vs. 1/1/2016 thru 2/28/16) MECO received 34 more reported cases demonstrating continued upward trending of case numbers for 2016.
  
- ✓ **Case Complexity:**
  - Cases have become more complex due to necessary assays for "exotic (and) designer" drugs.
  - Cases often require more extensive toxicology testing due to increasing numbers and varieties of prescription drugs.
  - Laboratory vendors have increased test fees upon contract anniversary dates (i.e., 5.18% - 2012, 3% - 2014, 2% - 2015, 3% - 2016).

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact. The Medical Examiner's Office has sufficient budget authority for the increase.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve the additional expenditures in the amount of \$40,000 to existing Purchase Order for National Medical Service (NMS) for toxicology testing (\$140,000 total Purchase Order) through June 30, 2016.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Move to approve additional expenditures in the amount of \$40,000 to existing Purchase Order for National Medical Service (NMS) for toxicology testing (\$140,000 total Purchase Order) through June 30, 2016.